

# God, Be Merciful Unto Us and Bless Us

Sermon Delivered on July 1st, 2018  
AM Service

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## Text:

Psalm 67:1 God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. 2: That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. 3: Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. 4: O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. 5: Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. 6: Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. 7: God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

## Introduction

One of the favorite songs on 4th of July is “God Bless America.” This is a prayer for God to pour His blessings upon our nation. People talk about God's blessing a lot. People desire and pray for God's blessings upon them. There is really nothing wrong in praying for God's blessings upon our life and our nation. **We should not feel guilty about desiring the blessings of God**, because God Himself wants to bless us and He has and if you are a child of God you are blessed beyond measure and beyond imagination. Do you believe that?

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings** in heavenly places in Christ:

There it is! If you are a child of God this morning you have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. God has blessed us and wants to continue to bless us. But the question is why should God bless us? Why should God pour His blessings upon us? **Why should God bless America?** I can give reasons why God should judge instead of bless America, but I am not going to do that. What I want to do this morning is to consider the reasons why we should desire God's blessings upon our individual lives, our corporate church life and upon our nation. I am going to direct your attention to Psalm 67. This is a Psalm with prophetic and immediate message.

I have three headings and they are: The **Giver** of Blessings, The **Ground** of Blessings, and The **Goal** of Blessings.

## I – The Giver of Blessings

It is God's nature to bless. It is His desire to bless us. The Psalmist is aware of this that is why he goes to God and prays this prayer in Psalm 67. He understands that God is the God of blessings and the source of blessings.

Psalm 67:1 **God** be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah.

The Psalmist acknowledges that God is the source of blessings. Elohim, the strong faithful Creator is the source of all blessings.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

James 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren. 17: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

We live in a day where **people want the blessings of God without the God of the blessings**. A lot people sing “God Bless America!” but do not want God in their lives.

In March 30, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of prayer and fasting. In this Proclamation, he warned Americans against forgetting God as the source of their blessings.

*“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!”*

At the end of Psalm 67 we read ...

Psalm 67:6 Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us 7: God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

*“... the psalmist repeats the name of God three times in connection with His blessing: “God, our God, blesses us. God blesses us....” This emphasizes that we cannot separate God’s blessing from God Himself. He is the blessing, to have Him as our God. You can have everything that the world counts as blessings, but if you don’t have God, you are not truly blessed. And, you may not have anything that the world counts as blessings, but if you have God and His smiling face in Christ, you are still truly blessed..” - Pastor Steven J. Cole*

## II – The Ground of Blessings

What is the basis or ground of God’s blessings upon us?

Psalm 67:1 God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah.

The first cry is for mercy and grace. Notice how this prayer Psalm 67 is similar to the benediction we read in ...

Numbers 6:22 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 23: Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, 24: The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: 25: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: 26: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. 27: And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.

By the way, here is why I believe it is not necessarily wrong to desire God's blessing upon our lives, our church, our country, because God Himself commands it.

The beginning of all blessings to mankind is the mercy and grace of God. We deserve His judgment but He gives us His mercy and grace. If God is blessing us it is because of His mercy. It's only because of His grace. The Christian life from beginning to end depends on God's grace.

Paul's testimony in 1 Corinthians 15:10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am" is the testimony of every believer. We received Christ because of God's grace. We walk and live the Christian life because of God's grace. We enjoy all of God's blessings because of His grace that He ordained for us in Christ.

Psalm 67:1 God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah.

*"To have God's face shining on us is the opposite of a scowling or angry face. To have His face shining towards us is the opposite of having Him turn His face away from us with indifference or disgust."* - James Boice

This statement, "The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee" means to have His smile or favor upon us.

God's blessing is rooted in His mercy and grace. Do you pray that often for yourself, your marriage, your children, and for this church? We all desperately need God's grace and His blessing.

### III – The Goal of Blessings

As I have said, it is God's nature to bless. He delights to bestow blessings upon His children. But we need to understand that **God has a purpose in blessing us**. His goal in blessing us is **not simply to make us peaceful, protected, and prosperous**. There is a greater purpose than just making us happy, rich and having a good and comfortable life. It is **never the Lord's intention for His blessings to end with us**. The blessings of God are not all about us. He blesses us to bless others. God blesses us, first and foremost, so that we can bring glory to His Name.

**The Psalmist asks for blessing so that:**

### 1. The world will know His way

Psalm 67:2 That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.  
His way is revealed in His word.

### 2. The world may know His salvation

Psalm 67:2 That thy way may be known upon earth, **thy saving health among all nations.**  
That the world may know that God is the God of salvation.

### 3. The world will praise Him

Psalm 67:3 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.  
Psalm 67:5 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.  
The beginning of praise is salvation.

### 4. The world will be filled with gladness and joy

Psalm 67:4 **O let the nations be glad and sing for joy:** for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

Psalm 126:1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.  
2: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. 3: The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

When God calls Abraham, this is what He says in ...

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2: And I will make of thee a great nation, and **I will bless thee**, and make thy name great; **and thou shalt be a blessing**: 3: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

When God our Father blesses us, He is not only doing something for us; He is also doing something in and through us to make a difference in the lives of others. We should not let the pleasures and comforts of His blessings blind us to their intended purpose. We need to ask the Lord **how to use His kindnesses as a way to point people to Him.**

God has blessed us individually and our church corporately and I believe He will continue to bless us so that all the nations would be blessed.

God wants the blessings we receive from Him to flow out to others, that is His part of His plan for the whole earth. The Lord blesses us so that His salvation, His ways, and His justice may be known by every nation and people group around the globe. God's blessings are gifts to be shared.

Warren Weirsbe puts it this way ...

*"God doesn't bless us to make us happy; He blesses us to make us a blessing."*

### **Closing Thoughts**

Psalm 68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

Bless God who day by day fully supplies us. Has not God always blessed us, throughout our entire life? And yet, He commands us to ask for His blessings. We need His continual blessings upon our lives. But remember His blessings upon our lives should not terminate in us. He blesses us to bless others. Oh, how we need to remember this truth.

Many times, our supported missionaries would ask for specific prayer request for our church. Just recently two of our missionaries ask anything they can pray about for your church.

I responded with these requests:

1. God would bless us with more soul getting saved and baptized and who would become faithful and committed followers of Jesus Christ.
2. God would bless us with increased number of members so that we can be a blessing to our community and to the regions beyond.
3. God would bless us with increase in giving so that we would be able to support more missionaries.
4. God would bless us with praying men and women, boys and girls who know how to get hold of God and know how to intercede for others.
5. God would bless us by continually making the current place of worship available to us.

Please you join me and our missionaries in praying that God would bless us that we would be a blessing to others!

**AMEN!**